



Grace Church Visitor

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Interest of Grace Reformed Church

FORT WAYNE INDIANA

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No. 1

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Christmas cantatta by the choir, Sabbath evening, Dec. 19.

Christmas exercises by the Sunday School at 4 p. m., Sabbath afternoon, Dec. 26.

Monthly meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society, Thursday afternoon, Dec. 16, at the home of Mrs. F. W. Hildebrand, 830 Washington Blvd. West.

Monthly meeting of the Mary B. Hoy Missionary Circle at the parsonage, Monday evening, Dec. 6.

Meeting of Catechetical Class in the Auditorium Sabbath morning at 9 o'clock, Dec. 12.

The Christmas offerings will be for benevolence. The scholars in the Sunday school and members of the Church will be furnished with special envelopes for this offering. Remembering that it is our Christmas offering, we will have an opportunity of showing to our Heavenly Father our appreciation of His Christmas gift to us.

Sabbath evening, Dec. 4, there will be a union service of the C. E. Societies of the three Reformed Churches in the city, at the St. John's Church.

The December meeting of the Young People's Society will be held at the home of Miss Vera Sessler, 1916 Cass St.

The pastor wants to meet all the young people in the Sunday School, and others, who wish to enter the catechetical, at nine o'clock Sabbath morning, Dec. 12. We are sure it would be profitable for many of the young people who are already members of the church to meet with the class.

The musical program given by the choir on Sabbath evening, Nov. 14, was greatly enjoyed by all the people present. The attendance was very good considering the inclemency of the evening. Our people are more than delighted with the splendid services of our organist and the choir. There are not many churches in the city that are furnished any better music than Grace Church is at present. The pastor appreciates the help the choir is giving him in the Sabbath services. We expect to have at least once a month a musical program for the Sabbath evening service. The opening service will consist of singing by the congregation, prayer, Scripture reading and brief comments by the pastor. It will be an evening of worship in the service of song and praise. The service will be in keeping with the spirit of the one hundredth Psalm: "Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise, be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

The next musical program will be given on Sabbath evening, Dec. 19, when the choir will render a Christmas cantatta. The offerings on these Sabbath evenings will go to the choir fund. We hope they may be liberal.

The Men's Senior Bible Class had its annual election of officers Tuesday evening, Nov. 9. Mr. John Buck was re-elected president; Ernest Close, secretary; H. E. Metzner, treasurer; W. F. Close, teacher. Reports were heard from the various committees, and other business was transacted.

THE EVERY MEMBER CANVASS.

For the past two years we have been trying to carry through an every-member canvass campaign. We have succeeded in a measure, and the effort has at least been educational, and some good has been done. The greatest difficulty has been to secure a sufficient number of really interested canvassers. The plan is to see every member of the Church and secure a pledge for the current year, and a separate pledge for benevolence. The apportionment for missions and other benevolent objects of the church is five cents a week per member. This is a small amount to contribute weekly. Some may not be able to pay this amount, but every member should contribute something for benevolence each week. Very many can and should pay more than five cents a week toward apportionment. In this way we shall be able to meet the full amount of our church assessment. Some of our people are giving liberally toward the current expense of the church. If all would contribute in the same proportion there never would be any deficit in our current expense fund. Some of the people are never influenced in giving by what others are doing. They give cheerfully and liberally according as God has blessed them. They feel that their giving is a matter of personal accountability between themselves and God. Their aim is to deal justly with God, and their supreme joy is to do what they can for the extension of His kingdom in the home and foreign field. However, we must not forget that until the whole membership of the church becomes possessed with the spirit of liberality and of personal accountability to God, so that every member will do his full duty in service and giving, we are going to be hampered in our work, and God cannot bless us and prosper us as a Church. Neither can we hope to be blessed and prospered in our homes and in our individual lives.

We want our people to think about these things seriously and prayerfully,

so that when you come to make your pledges for the new year you will not only do it cheerfully, but give as God has blessed you, with the conviction that as you give so God will give to you. Give and it shall be given to you. We are planning to have the every-member canvass Sunday afternoon, January 19. We want a large corps of canvassers and we want representatives from every section of the city. Those willing to assist in this canvass should report to the pastor at once.

SOME SCRIPTURAL THOUGHTS ON CHRISTIAN GIVING.

Giving is a Grace to Be Cultivated.—

As ye abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge see that ye abound in this grace also. * * * For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath.—II Cor. 8:7, 12.

Christ Illustrated This Grace.—Ye

know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.—II Cor. 8:9.

Giving Should be Systematic and Proportionate.—Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase.—Prov. 3:9.

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him.—I Cor. 16:2.

Giving is an Act of Worship.—"They shall not appear before the Lord empty; every man shall give as he is able according to the blessings of the Lord thy God which he hath given thee."—Deut-16:16, 17.

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name: bring an offering and come into His courts.—Ps. 96:8.

I am but one.

But I am one.

I cannot do everything.

But I can do something.

What I can do, I ought to do.

And what I can do I ought to do, and by the Grace of God I will do.

A NEW NAME.

We do not know that there is so much in a name, but sometimes we become tired of hearing the same old name. The Ladies' Aid Society by a unanimous vote decided to change their name and adopted the name of the Doremus Guild. This name is significant because of the fact that Mrs. Doremus was the first woman to interest the women in real missionary work. She was a member of the Dutch Reformed Church in New York City and to her untiring efforts were due the first enterprising organization of women for self denying work. To the character and influence of Mrs. Doremus the missionary work of the world is in debt. So far back as 1861 this good woman realized the possibilities of consecrated womanhood, and gave herself to the task of enlisting them for active service.

Why should we not honor her by naming our band of women who have stood by Grace church all these years and have given not alone labor but who have made sacrifices for the church in so many ways.

Grace church owes much to the faithful women who have labored year in and year out to help make the church a success. Without means a church can not be a success. As in a home there are constant demands, and these must be supplied, so in a church there is a constant need and some must work and give so that ends will meet. When the little chapel was built that now accommodates the Sunday school of Grace Church both Pastor and people gave their labor unstintingly that this little room might be completed. Some of these women are in the church today who rubbed the wood work with sand paper to save a little money. They painted the woodwork and not anything was too much because their hearts were in the work and they

wanted nothing more than to see it succeed. While visiting one of these dear old ladies she said that she never was happier than when she was giving herself for the church. It is her greatest cross that she can not be in the service and work of the church as she once was. She longs to do her part and tho she can not be with us, she is ready and anxious to give.

The little circle of women in Grace Church, who have for years carried the burden of responsibility, is composed for the most part of the older members of the church, tho recently there have been some members added who will be a help. It should not be considered a burden to give a little time and work that the church may be better equipped and that it may be made attractive to those who are seeking a church home. How a word or a look may help or hinder. Because I do not do my duty some other soul may fail. We have an active member of the society who has been identified with the work since she was a little girl and she has not grown weary of it either. We should have the younger women to help us. It is but right that they should give a helping hand for by and by the older women must drop out, then who will work? There is a tremendous power for good that is locked up in these inactive church members if only some one will kindle it so that it may burn with enthusiasm. Our lights should burn so brightly that we will illuminate the way for others.

What you you, dear reader of this little paper, doing? Are you a worker or are you a hinderer? Come and assume your share of the work in the church, for no other member can do your work. You must do it or it will not be done at all.

Richard Raymond, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Deahl, was baptized at the Sabbath morning service, Oct. 24.

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REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, D. D., Editor and Pub.

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OUR SICK PEOPLE.

Mrs. Baum continues in about the same condition, growing some weaker from day to day.

Mrs. James Evard has been suffering all summer and fall and has lost her sight almost entirely. She cannot see to read or do any work.

Mrs. Boals is very much worse and is again confined to her bed.

Mrs. Stapleton is not at all well. The family is now residing at 514 Fairmont Place.

Clarence Reiter, residing at 1328 Wabash Ave., has been ill for a month past. He is improving some, but is not getting along very rapidly.

Mr. Gavin remains about the same, some days he feels fairly well, other days not so well. He was very much pleased to have some of our men come in and spend a few hours with him.

Mrs. Roy Bitner, who was at the hospital some time ago, is getting along very nicely.

Mrs. Ernest Baumgartner was received into Grace Church by letter from the Plymouth Congregational at our communion service Sabbath morning, Oct. 24.

Mr. and Mrs. Dayton Baltzel were received at the Sabbath morning service, Nov. 21. Mr. Baltzel was received by profession of faith and baptism, and Mrs. Baltzel by the right hand of fellowship from the First Baptist Church. We are glad to welcome these friends into the church, and assure them that we will do all we can to make them feel at home among us, and will assist them in every way possible in their Christian life and service for the Master.

The financial secretary will have the annual statements out for distribution about the middle of December.

During the year we were at quite an added expense for repairs and furnishings for the church. We had to install a new furnace in our Sunday school rooms, the insurance on the church building had to be renewed, repairs had to be made on the church roof, making altogether some over \$300. The consistory decided that this matter should be presented to the Church at some morning service and pledges should be taken to meet this indebtedness. At a recent service this was done. There was a very hearty and generous response. Nearly two hundred and fifty dollars were pledged. Since then the amount has grown. If the members who have not yet contributed will give as liberally as others did we will easily raise the amount we asked for or more. You can report to Mr. Brewer or the pastor the amount you can give.

Mr. and Mrs. David Walters celebrated their fiftieth marriage anniversary at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Henry Krohn Miller, Sept. 21. Their children and grandchildren were all present at the anniversary. They were united in marriage by Rev. Mr. Hill, then pastor of the Lutheran Church at Spencerville, Ind. Mr. and Mrs. Walters have been residents of Ft. Wayne for many years and the whole family has been connected with Grace Church for the past twenty-five years. We want to congratulate them on having reached their fiftieth anniversary, and we wish for them many more years of happy companionship together on life's pilgrimage.

In your week-day and Christmas shopping do not forget our advertisers. They are deserving the patronage of the members of Grace Church. We must not forget that these business people make it possible for us to continue the publications of our parish paper. Let us show them our appreciation for the help they are giving us.

Miss Lilah Swinehart, of Somerset, Ohio, a niece of the pastor, was a guest at the parish house for a month past. We enjoyed her visit very much. We

were glad that she could make the acquaintance of so many of our young people. On her return home she stopped with her sisters and other relatives at Dayton, Ohio.

During the autumn days the pastor and wife visited a number of our families residing in the country. Accompanied by Mrs. Monn, we spent one afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pfeiffer, residing seven miles south of the city on the Huntington road.

Accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Gumper we spent an afternoon at the homes of Mr. and Mrs. James Evard, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Chausee, residing eight miles east of the city on the Maysville road; a day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Shearer, living nine miles south of Ft. Wayne..

Accompanied by our niece, Miss Lila Swinehart, we spent an afternoon at the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Luke Durrell, six miles south of the city; an afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Rudisill. Mrs. Rudisill was just recovering from some severe injuries she had received from a fall. We spent another afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Sweet, living four miles north of the city on the Leo road. We greatly enjoyed these visits, and hope we shall be able to get around to all of our families in the country before the winter comes on.

At the monthly meeting of the Young People's Society, held at the home of Miss Esther Fritz on Tuesday evening, Nov. 2, the annual election of officers was held, with results as follows: President, Mr. Evan Williams; vice-president, Clarence Aiken; treasurer, Ernest Baumgartner; secretary, Miss Evelyn Wertman; pianist, Miss Vera Sessler; assistant, Mrs. Ray Deahl.

At the annual C. E. district convention, held at Huntington, Mr. Williams was re-elected secretary of Allen County.

Mrs. Jessie Salway Timmis died at her home, 819 Eckart St., Monday noon, Oct. 18. She was born April 9,

1848, on board the ship when her parents were crossing the Aatlantic, coming from England to this country. She was aged 67 years, 6 months and 9 days. Coming to the United States, the family at first located in Jefferson county Wisconsin. In later years the family moved to Shelby, Ohio. She was married to William Timmis at Mansfield, Ohio, April 6, 1866. Shortly after the marriage, they came to Ft. Wayne. Mr. Timmis died two years ago. Mrs. Timmis was a good mother and a good neighbor, always ready to render assistance in time of sickness and sorrow. She is survived by five sons and two daughters, two brothers and two sisters. The funeral services were held at the home on Thursday afternoon, Oct. 12.

Jacob Rasmus, a long time resident and business man of Ft. Wayne, died Thursday morning, Nov. 11. He was born in Hamburg, Germany, April 9, 1861. He was aged 54 years, 6 months and 2 days. He had been in poor health for a number of years. He was a man who was well known and highly respected. He came to America when 19 years of age. He first located at Florida, Ohio, and came to this city in 1852. He was married to Mrs. Jennie Gray, Nov. 29, 1906. Early in life he united with the Lutheran Church of which he was a member for a number of years. He and his wife united with the Grace Reformed Church a few months ago. He was very happy in his new church relationship, and in having come back again into the fellowship of God's people. The pastor saw him last on the evening before his death. He assured us that he was ready to answer the call of the Lord, and we believe he has gone to his eternal reward in the Father's House on the other side. His wife, one brother and one sister survive him. The funeral services were held on Saturday morning, Nov. 13, from the home, 737 Riverside Ave. May the Lord comfort these friends in their sorrow and bereavement.

Recently, while spending the afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Shearer, we had the pleasure of again having a visit with Mr. Shearer's mother, who resides on the old homestead. On Oct. 17 she celebrated her eighty-first birthday. She is well preserved in mind and body, and is cheerful and happy after all the hardships and toils of her earlier life. She was born in Germany, and at the age of twenty, Nov. 18, 1854, she was married to Mr. Jacob Shearer. Five years after their marriage they came to America and located on the farm where Mrs. Shearer now resides. They had many difficulties and trials to contend with in those early pioneer days of the Hoosier state, but they fought the battles bravely and were abundantly rewarded for their industry and many privations. Mr. Shearer died some nine or ten years ago. We hope this aged mother may live many more years to enjoy the comforts of her home and the esteem of her many friends and neighbors.

C. E. TOPICS AND LEADERS.

Dec. 5.—Golden Fruit from the Prayer Life.—Heb. 4:14-16; 11:6. Leader—Mrs. F. D. Knott.

Dec. 12.—The Reasonableness and Value of the Christian Endeavor Pledge.—Ps. 61:1-8. Leaders—Edith Shiffer.

Dec. 19.—How the Prophecy of the Angels' Christmas Song May Come True.—Luke 2:8-20. Leader—Clarence Aiken.

Dec. 26.—How to Keep on the Up Grade.—Phil. 3:13-16. Leader—Bertha Weickart.

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